

Docket No.: 514572000600  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Xu ZHANG et al.

Application No.: 10/538,498

Filed: (Int'l) December 31, 2002

For: MAGNETISM BASED RAPID CELL  
SEPARATION

Confirmation No.: 7048

Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: Stuart W. Snyder

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Snyder:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for the above-referenced application. A final Office Action was mailed on December 12, 2007 ("the OA"), for which a response was due on March 12, 2007. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. An Amendment After Final Action was filed on January 15, 2008, wherein expedited examination was requested. An Advisory Action was issued on February 20, 2008, declining to enter the requested amendments.

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment for the above-referenced patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.